

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. CENTRIST, BUSINESS-ORIENTED NICARAGUAN WEEKLY LA NACION RAN FULL TWO-PAGE, IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF U.S. TRADE LAW IN MARCH 22 EDITION. WRITTEN BY NICARAGUAN CENTRAL BANK DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MANUEL OBREGON, ARTICLE IS EXHAUSTIVE ANALYSIS OF LAW, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF TRADE BILL, POWERS AND PURPOSES OF LAW, GSP PROVISIONS AND EFFECT OF LAW ON NICARAGUA AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. PERTINENT QUOTES FOLLOW:

-"THE LAW CONSTITUTES...THE MOST IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT OF COMMERCIAL REFORM UNDERTAKEN BY THE US SINCE 1962 AND INCLUDES A SERIES OF REGULATIONS THAT PLACE THE US IN A BETTER POSITION TO NEGOTIATE BEFORE THE WORLD AND ESTABLISHES PRINCIPLES WHICH, WHILE PROTECTING THE US ECONOMY, FACILITATE A NEW TREATMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

-"THE LAW...IS ORIENTED TOWARD A LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD COMMERCE, WHICH WOULD BENEFIT NOT ONLY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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BUT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL."

- "THESE PREFERENCES (GSP) FORM SECTION V OF THE LAW AND ARE THE MOST INTERESTING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

- "IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED THAT THESE (EXCLUSIONS) WOULD ONLY BE APPLIED WHEN DELIBERATE ACTIONS WHICH ALTER THE PRICE SYSTEM OF ARTICLES VITAL TO THE US ECONOMY ARE INVOLVED."

- "UNDOUBTEDLY, THE GSP, ONCE IT ENTERS INTO OPERATION, WILL BENEFIT NICARAGUAN EXPORTS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IN SOME CASES IT WILL BE AN INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP NEW INDUSTRIES THAT COULD PENETRATE THE (US) MARKET."

- "ONE CAN CONCLUDE THAT THE LAW RESPONDS...BY SEARCHING FOR VIABLE SOLUTIONS TO A DIFFICULT INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, THE LAW IS, TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, PROTECTIONIST."

- "THE LAW ESTABLISHED A NEW TREATMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH THE IMPLIMENTATION OF GSP...THE LA COUNTRIES WILL COME OUT BENEFITTING BECAUSE OF THIS GREATER MARKET ACCESS."

3. COMMENT: ARTICLE REPRESENTS MOST DEFINITIVE ANALYSIS TO DATE OF US TRADE LAW IN NICARAGUAN MEDIA, AND BECAUSE OF HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL, BUSINESS-ORIENTED READERSHIP OF LA NACION, IS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD CLARIFYING AND EXPLAINING EFFECTS OF TRADE LAW ON NICARAGUA. ITEM.

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